

From:
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Message:
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Dear sirs.

First off. The reason there is interaction problems is there is way too many Canadian boats fishing in the U.S. and not nearly enough US vessels fishing in Canada. Generally the Canadians have been fishing more aggressively. Aggressively to the point where some try to come inside your Circle or tack to catch fish from the very same school I am working. This results in nobody catching anything. Is against any C.O.D. (Code of Conduct). Which generally is don't try to catch the same fish somebody else is trying to catch at the same time. Many times I have been in a circle and have up to 7 Canadians bumping my wake. If I am ever in trouble on the Ocean and there is Canadians around. you don't have to get on the radio, just put your boat in a circle and they will be right there on top of you.

Evan if there was no violations in the general rule I would not be in favor of the last fishing agreement. Just the fact that these boats are in the same area catching fish. When they catch some fish off a school the biters are taken. The school does me no good to hit it after the other boat is gone. Most likely the other boat will keep working the spot anyways. When they are working a spot of fish I can't go over and catch those fish. resulting in a reduced catch for me compared to if they weren't there.

The only way this could be resolved is if they agreed to stay at least 3 miles away from any American boat, which is ridiculous.

In mid Sept. of this year we were catching from 500-1000 fish a day. after a few days 30 Canadians showed up. One day in particular there was 5 American boats spread out on good fishing, up to 500 fish by noon. We all were hitting fresh schools. On the horizon the was a fleet of boats slowly working towards us. When they got to about 3-4

miles they headed straight for us. As they could tell we were working fish, we could identify them as Canadian.. The area got filled up with Canadians. None of them tried to catch fish from the same school, at the same time as us. So they did follow COD. however with the increased effort, all the schools got hit with the biters caught. Catching rate dropped to 100-200 fish the next day. The day after there was more boats, mostly Canadian. Catch rate dropped further. The fish were still there but not biting because the biters were caught. If that fleet didn't show up. We would have caught 500-800 fish for several more days. I probably lost 5 or more tons just those few days because of competition from the Canadian fleet. I and other American boats lost fish catching opportunity and production.

last year I had really good fishing 2 times like what I just wrote about, get cut short because of competition on the grounds from The Canadian fleet. Many more times fishing wasn't that good, seen a lot of fish, and Canadians. The result was the same, Decrease catching. When there is more boats in an area, the catch per boat drops. Up to a point more boats does not remove more fish from the ocean. It just splits up what is caught among the boats. We are giving our resource away. Most of those fish the Canadian are catching, American boats would be catching.

I look at this Code of Conduct topic as a distraction. It can't be enforced. Even if the Canadians were not as aggressive we would still be losing. Their aggressive behavior is like rubbing "Salt into the Wound". So it doesn't matter. The bottom line is. This is business. This treaty is a business agreement. It has to be beneficial for both party's for there to be an agreement. Canada is benefiting at the US expense. This treaty is costing me and every American Albacore fisherman a lot of money.

What us Americans have to determine is to figure out how many boats we are willing to let fish in US waters in exchange for ALL US boats to fish in Canadian waters. The Canadians have to determine how many Canadian boats need to have access to US waters in exchange for Unlimited US boats in Canadian waters. That's it! Nothing else matters.

Every Canadian Albacore fisherman knows that the last fishing agreement is very far from equitable. I understand the Canadian delegation asked for a reduction of US boats allowed to fish in

Canadian waters. This is extremely disingenuous. This is insulting. If they wanted a workable agreement they should of came up with a drastic reduction in the number of their boats in US waters ,as a minimum starting point. They act like this US fishery is their fishery . Lately they are right. This is basically the "Only Fishery" they have. Maybe they need to be with out it to realize the value of an agreement could be to them.

I have NO interest in negotiating a fishing agreement of any kind with Canada. Maybe in a few years, If Canada comes up with a viable "Good Faith" equitable offer. I may reconsider my position.

Sincerely

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